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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/610,158	06/30/2000	William J. Veeneman	9203/046 RE	3096

24283 7590 12/29/2003

PATTON BOGGS
PO BOX 270930
LOUISVILLE, CO 80027

EXAMINER

DIXON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/610,158

Applicant(s)

VEENEMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 15-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The substitute figure 7, submitted on 29 April 2003 is approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chain Store Age in view of McCalley et al (5,113,496).

As per Claim 1, 15, 20, 25.
Chain Store Age discloses:
at least one data terminal comprising:
a first data entry system through which first information and inquiries about registrants in the gift registry are entered into the gift registry system, the first information for each registrant including at least the registrant's name, see page 1 lines 51 – page 2 column 1, line 10;
a second data entry system capable of receiving second information, the second information including a list of potential gifts for each registrant, see page 2 column 1, lines 3-10 and lines 41-48;
a database storage system that stores and retrieves the first and second information about the registrant, see page 2, column 1, lines 6-10; and
a display system that displays the list of potential gifts for a particular registrant, in response to an inquiry from a prospective purchaser, see page 2 column 3, lines 14-21 .

Chain Store Age discloses the collection of SKU numbers, which can be specific to the merchant and in the case of a store brand and therefore identified with the merchant, just as the bride can scan a generic code, see page 2, column 1, lines 41-49.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose the unique identifier associated with the particular merchant having each of the desired gifts.

McCalley et al ('496) teaches a system that provides customers with online shopping and gift registry in the electronic mall, see column 22, lines 9-13 for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Chain Store Age, if necessary, to

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store and display gift registry associated with different merchants, as taught by McCalley et al ('496) for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

As per Claim 2.

Chain Store Age further discloses a touch screen, see page 2, column 3, line 18.

As per Claim 3.

Chain Store Age further discloses the second data entry system comprises a transfer device electrically connected to the computer system and a portable device, see page 2, column 1, lines 3-10.

As per Claim 4, 16, 21, 26

Chain Store Age further discloses the portable device is a hand-held scanning device, see page 2, column 1, lines 4-5.

As per Claim 5, 17, 22, 27, 28.

Chain Store Age further discloses the transfer device is a docking station for the portable handheld device, see page 2, column 1, lines 9-10.

As per Claim 6.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose the second data entry system identifies each participating merchant by a unique identifier.

Chain Store Age discloses the collection of SKU numbers, which can be specific to the merchant and in the case of a store brand and therefore identified with the merchant, just as the bride can scan a generic code, see page 2, column 1, lines 41-49.

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As per Claim 7.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose the unique identifier is in the form of a digitally encoded value embodied in a bar code.

Chain Store Age discloses the collection of SKU numbers, which can be specific to the merchant and in the case of a store brand and therefore identified with the merchant, just as the bride can scan a generic code, see page 2, column 1, lines 41-49.

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As per Claim 8.

Chain Store Age further discloses an updating means for updating the database storage registrant as a prospective purchaser buys a gift from the list of potential gifts for a potential registrant, see page 2, column 1, lines 49-57.

As per Claim 18, 23.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose a modem.

McCalley et al ('496) teaches a modem, see column 22, lines 63-67 as an old and well known method of communication between electronic devices.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a modem in the invention of Chain Store Age for the benefit of communication between electronic devices.

As per Claim 19.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose a wireless link.

McCalley et al ('496) teaches a wireless link, see column 40, lines 52-68 as an old and well known method of communication between electronic devices.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a wireless link in the invention of Chain Store Age for the benefit of communication between electronic devices.

As per Claim 24, 29.

Chain Store Age discloses the collection of SKU numbers, which can be specific to the merchant and in the case of a store brand and therefore identified with the merchant, just as the bride can scan a generic code, see page 2, column 1, lines 41-49 and display to purchasers, see page 2, column 3, lines 16-21.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose the unique identifier associated with the particular merchant having each of the desired gifts.

McCalley et al ('496) teaches a system that provides customers with online shopping and gift registry in the electronic mall, see column 22, lines 9-13 for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

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store and display gift registry associated with different merchants, as taught by McCalley et al ('496) for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

4. Claims 1-17, 20, 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chain Store Age in view of Parent.

As per Claim 1, 15, 20-22, 25.

Chain Store Age discloses:

at least one data terminal comprising:

a first data entry system through which first information and inquiries about registrants in the gift registry are entered into the gift registry system, the first information for each registrant including at least the registrant's name, see page 1 lines 51 – page 2 column 1, line 10;

a second data entry system capable of receiving second information, the second information including a list of potential gifts for each registrant, see page 2 column 1, lines 3-10 and lines 41-48;

a database storage system that stores and retrieves the first and second information about the registrant, see page 2, column 1, lines 6-10; and

a display system that displays the list of potential gifts for a particular registrant, in response to an inquiry from a prospective purchaser, see page 2 column 3, lines 14-21 .

Chain Store Age discloses the collection of SKU numbers, which can be specific to the merchant and in the case of a store brand and therefore identified with the merchant, just as the bride can scan a generic code, see page 2, column 1, lines 41-49.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose the unique identifier associated with the particular merchant having each of the desired gifts.

Parent teaches a mall that provides multi merchant gift registry service to its customers for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Chain Store Age, if necessary, to store and display a registry for multiple merchants, as taught by Parent for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

As per Claim 2.

Chain Store Age further discloses a touch screen, see page 2, column 3, line 18.

As per Claim 3.

Chain Store Age further discloses the second data entry system comprises a transfer device electrically connected to the computer system and a portable device, see page 2, column 1, lines 3-10.

As per Claims 4, 16, 21, 26

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Chain Store Age further discloses the portable device is a hand-held scanning device, see page 2, column 1, lines 4-5.

As per Claim 5, 17, 22, 27, 28.

Chain Store Age further discloses the transfer device is a docking station for the portable handheld device, see page 2, column 1, lines 9-10.

As per Claim 6.

Chain Store Age discloses the collection of SKU numbers, which can be specific to the merchant and in the case of a store brand and therefore identified with the merchant, just as the bride can scan a generic code, see page 2, column 1, lines 41-49.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose the unique identifier associated with the particular merchant having each of the desired gifts.

Parent teaches a mall that provides multi merchant gift registry service to its customers for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Chain Store Age, if necessary, to store and display a registry for multiple merchants, as taught by Parent for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

As per Claim 7.

Chain Store Age discloses the collection of SKU numbers, which can be specific to the merchant and in the case of a store brand and therefore identified with the merchant, just as the bride can scan a generic code, see page 2, column 1, lines 41-49.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose the unique identifier associated with the particular merchant having each of the desired gifts.

Parent teaches a mall that provides multi merchant gift registry service to its customers for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Chain Store Age, if necessary, to store and display a registry for multiple merchants, as taught by Parent for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

As per Claim 8.

Chain Store Age further discloses an updating means for updating the database storage registrant as a prospective purchaser buys a gift from the list of potential gifts for a potential registrant, see page 2, column 1, lines 49-57.

As per Claim 24, 29.

Chain Store Age discloses the collection of SKU numbers, which can be specific to the merchant and in the case of a store brand and therefore identified with the merchant, just as the bride can scan a generic code, see page 2, column 1, lines 41-49 and display to purchasers, see page 2, column 3, lines 16-21.

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5. Claims 1-17, 20-22, 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chain Store Age in view of Brumback et al.

As per Claim 1, 15, 20, 25.

Chain Store Age discloses:

at least one data terminal comprising:

a first data entry system through which first information and inquiries about registrants in the gift registry are entered into the gift registry system, the first information for each registrant including at least the registrant's name, see page 1 lines 51 – page 2 column 1, line 10;

a second data entry system capable of receiving second information, the second information including a list of potential gifts for each registrant, see page 2 column 1, lines 3-10 and lines 41-48;

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Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose the unique identifier associated with the particular merchant having each of the desired gifts.

Brumback et al teaches a system that provides customers with gift suggestions from several stores in the mall, see page 4, lines 9-13 for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Chain Store Age, if necessary, to store and display gift suggestions associated with different merchants, as taught by Brumback et al for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

As per Claim 2.

Chain Store Age further discloses a touch screen, see page 2, column 3, line 18.

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As per Claim 3.

Chain Store Age further discloses the second data entry system comprises a transfer device electrically connected to the computer system and a portable device, see page 2, column 1, lines 3-10.

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Chain Store Age further discloses an updating means for updating the database storage registrant as a prospective purchaser buys a gift from the list of potential gifts for a potential registrant, see page 2, column 1, lines 49-57.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Chain Store Age, if necessary, to store and display gift suggestions associated with different merchants, as taught by Brumback et al for the benefit of increased customer satisfaction and convenience.

6. Claims 18-19, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chain Store Age over Parent or Brumback in view of McCalley et al (5,113,496).

As per Claim 18, 23.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose a modem.

McCalley et al ('496) teaches a modem, see column 22, lines 63-67 as an old and well known method of communication between electronic devices.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a modem in the invention of Chain Store Age for the benefit of communication between electronic devices.

As per Claim 19.

Chain Store Age does not specifically disclose a wireless link.

McCalley et al ('496) teaches a wireless link, see column 40, lines 52-68 as an old and well known method of communication between electronic devices.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a wireless link in the invention of Chain Store Age for the benefit of communication between electronic devices.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 9-14 are allowable.
8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per Claims 9, 13.

The prior art of record, specifically Chain Store Age Executive in view of Bianco (5,047,624) does not disclose or fairly teach the portable input and storage device for use with a plurality of merchants located in an area stores a unique identifier for the particular merchant each desired gift is from.

The claims that depend from the above allowable claims are allowable for the same reasons.

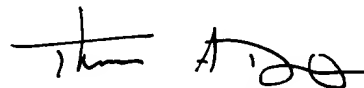
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas A. Dixon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas A. Dixon
Examiner
Art Unit 3629

November 7, 2003